

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2 (cancelled)

1 **Claim 3** (currently amended): A purification apparatus for
2 a liquid to be treated characterized in that it has first and
3 second filter layers for filtering the liquid to be treated,
4 an absorbent placed between said first and second filter
5 layers and containing at least basic magnesium sulfate and
6 magnesium hydroxide,
7 and electrode ~~equipments~~ equipment for electrically
8 charging a direct current through said liquid to be treated and
9 generating OH ions in the liquid,
10 and in that it is designed such that the OH ions generated
11 by said electrode equipments as well as the hydroxyl group in
12 said absorbent are bound to the metal ions in the liquid to be
13 treated resulting in flocculation, particles flocculated in this
14 manner are aggregated, and then trapped by said second filter
15 layer.

1 **Claim 4** (currently amended): A purification apparatus for
2 a liquid to be treated characterized in that it has first and
3 second filter layers for filtering the liquid to be treated,

4 an absorbent placed between said first and second filter
5 layers and containing a powdery cellulose,
6 and electrode ~~equipments~~ equipment for electrically
7 charging a direct current through said liquid to be treated and
8 generating OH ions in the liquid to be treated,
9 and in that it is designed such that the OH ions generated
10 by said electrode equipments is bound to the metal ions in the
11 liquid to be treated resulting in flocculation, particles
12 flocculated in this manner are trapped by said absorbent and said
13 second filter layer.

1 **Claim 5** (currently amended): The apparatus according to
2 anyone of claims [[2]] 3 to 4, wherein said metal ions are heavy
3 metal ions.

Claim 6 (cancelled)

1 **Claim 7** (currently amended): A process for purifying a
2 liquid to be treated characterized in that it comprises:

3 step in which the liquid to be treated is passed through a
4 first filter layer,

5 step in which the liquid to be treated passed through said
6 first filter layer is passed through a layer of an absorbent
7 placed downstream of said first filter layer, subsequently
8 thereto, and comprising at least basic magnesium sulfate and
9 magnesium hydroxide,

10 step in which said metal ions ~~[[is]]~~ are bound by further
11 passing the liquid to be treated passed through the layer of
12 absorbent through a layer of the second filter layer placed
13 downstream of said layer of absorbent and subsequently thereto
14 causing flocculation, and further aggregating the flocculated
15 particles so that a mass is formed, and

16 step in which the liquid to be treated passed through said
17 layer of absorbent is trapped by a second filter layer placed
18 downstream of said layer of absorbent and subsequently thereto.

1 **Claim 8** (currently amended): A process for purifying a
2 liquid to be treated characterized in that it comprises:

3 step in which the liquid to be treated is passed through a
4 first filter layer,

5 step in which a direct current is electrically charged
6 through said liquid to be treated so that OH ions ~~[[is]]~~ are
7 generated in the liquid to be treated,

8 step in which the liquid to be treated passed through said
9 first filter layer is passed through a layer of an absorbent
10 placed downstream of said first filter layer, subsequently
11 thereto, and containing at least basic magnesium sulfate and
12 magnesium hydroxide,

13 step in which the OH ions generated by said electric
14 current as well as a hydroxyl group in said absorbent are bound
15 to the metal ions in the liquid to be treated resulting in
16 flocculation, and further flocculated particles are aggregated,

17 and

18 step in which an aggregate formed in said aggregation is
19 trapped by a second filter layer placed downstream of said layer
20 of absorbent and subsequently thereto.

1 **Claim 9** (currently amended): A process for purifying a
2 liquid to be treated characterized in that it comprises:

3 step in which the liquid to be treated is passed through a
4 first filter layer,

5 step in which a direct current is electrically charged
6 through said liquid to be treated so that OH ions ~~[[is]]~~ are
7 generated in the liquid to be treated,

8 step in which the liquid to be treated passed through said
9 first filter layer is passed through a layer of an absorbent
10 placed downstream of said first filter layer, subsequently
11 thereto, and containing powdery cellulose,

12 step in which the OH ions generated by said electric
13 current ~~[[is]]~~ are bound to the metal ions in the liquid
14 resulting in flocculation, and

15 step in which particles flocculated in this manner are
16 trapped by said layer of absorbent and a second filter layer
17 placed downstream of said layer of absorbent and subsequently
18 thereto.

1 **Claim 10** (currently amended): The process according to
2 anyone of claims 7 to 9, wherein said metal ions ~~[[is a]]~~ are

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3 heavy metal ions.